

AMENDMENTS IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have amended Figure 8 to correct inaccuracies noted by the Examiner in the telephone conference of August 31, 2005. An amended drawing sheet is attached. Applicants thank the Examiner for his attention to detail.

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated June 9, 2005. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify key features of the invention and overcome the claim objections and rejections. No new matter has been added, and the amendments place the claims in better condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims. The discussion/arguments provided below reference the claims in their amended form. Claims 6, 7, 10 and 19 are amended. Claims 1-5 and 17-18 are cancelled. Claims 6-16 and 19-21 are currently pending.

INTERVIEW WITH THE EXAMINER

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the telephone conversation of August 31, 2005. Applicants have amended the claims, drawings, and specification to satisfy all instructions provided by the Examiner in that conversation. Applicants thank the examiner for his great courtesy and patience with respect to this application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In the present Office Action, the specification is objected to because it misdescribes the drawings. Accordingly, Applicants has reviewed the specification and provided corrections thereto, in accordance with the instructions of the Examiner in the telephone conference of August 31, 2005. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the specification and thank the Examiner for his attention to detail.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

At paragraph 10 of the Office Action, Examiner states that Claims 7-16 are allowed. At paragraph 11, Examiner states that Claims 19 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, in the telephone conference of August 31, the Examiner indicated that Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of the base claim,

any intervening claims, and claim 19. Applicants have complied with the Examiner's instructions to rewrite claim 19 in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 17 and any intervening claims. Similarly, Applicant has amended Claim 6 in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1, any intervening claims and claim 19. The amendments to the independent claims place all claims in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests Examiner extend the allowance to include all pending claims.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

In the present Office Action, Claims 19 and 21 are objected to because of informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claims 19 and 21 to overcome the claim objections. The amendments also place the claims in condition for allowance.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

At paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has cancelled claim 1.

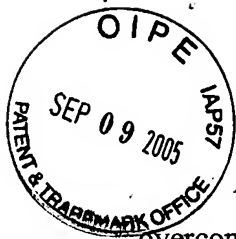
CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mast (U.S. Patent No. 4,873,395). Applicant has cancelled claims 1-2.

In addition, in the present Office Action, Claims 17-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mendoza (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,830). Applicant has cancelled claims 17, and 18. Because claim 20 depends from and further limits the invention described in claim 19, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is also patentable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the present Office Action, Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mast (U.S. Patent No. 4,873,395) in view of Mendoza (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,830). Applicants have cancelled claims 3-5. Applicants have amended Claim 6 in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1, any intervening claims and claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is also patentable.



CONCLUSION

Applicants have diligently responded to the Office Action by amending the claims to overcome claim objections and clarify features within specific claims. Applicants have also amended the claims to § 112, § 102 and § 103 rejections. Because the amendments overcome the claim objections and also the § 112, § 102 and § 103 rejections, Applicants, respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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